

DECISION MEMO
FOR
AMENDMENT #5
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chavez, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties, New Mexico

September 1990

The Federal Sikes Act, passed in 1960, allowed state game agencies to cooperate with military installations in areas of mutual interest. In 1974, this Act was amended to include lands managed by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture.

Title 2 of the Sikes Act permits state game and fish departments to charge hunters, trappers, or anglers a fee for using lands administered by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. The first area in New Mexico which utilized the authority under this title was the Carson National Forest's Valle Vidal Unit. In 1986, this authorization was expanded to include the Lincoln National Forest and adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands in the southeast portion of New Mexico as well as the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest. In 1989, BLM lands adjacent to the Jicarilla District were also included. In December of 1989, the New Mexico Game Commission authorized Statewide expansion of the program for a five-year period.

To hunt, trap, or fish in areas covered by this provision, users must obtain a wildlife habitat improvement stamp and put it on their hunting, trapping, or fishing license. In New Mexico, these stamps generally cost \$5.25 (except the Valle Vidal unit which is \$10.00). These funds are collected by the State Game Department and held until the Game Commission approves expenditure. Projects are proposed by the general public, Game Department, and Federal land management agencies. A priority is made by the Game Department and land management agencies, then adjusted by a citizens' review committee. The citizens' review committee is composed of hunters, anglers, trappers, ranchers, and other interested publics. The committee recommends projects to the State Game Commission.

The Game Department allocates funds for approved projects. Once they have received the money, the land management agencies implement the projects.

Estimated 1988 costs for projects on the Lincoln National Forest was \$100,000. Half was State Sikes Act money, half was Forest Service matching dollars. In 1989, estimated costs were \$200,000--half State and half Forest Service matching dollars. In 1990, the commission approved approximately \$300,000 for project work on the Lincoln. Of that, \$200,000 was funded--half State, half Forest Service. The \$100,000 of lower priority project work will be completed as funding opportunities arise.

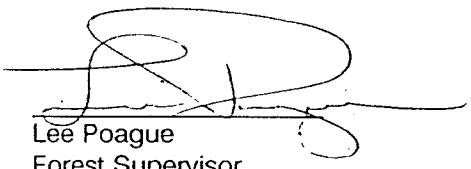
To adjust to this funding and habitat improvement opportunity, I have decided to amend the Lincoln Land and Resource Management Plan. Because projects approved through the Sikes Act are in addition to those identified in the Plan, and site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures will be followed to ensure their appropriateness, no other changes to the Plan are needed to make this adjustment. Please replace Plan page 33 with the page provided.

I have considered the significance of the effects of this amendment on the quality of the human environment in terms of both context and intensity of those effects (40 CFR 1508.27). This action fits the criteria for routine administrative and maintenance actions that may be categorically excluded from documentation in an

- environmental impact statement or environmental assessment as established by the Chief of the Forest Service in Interim Directive Number 3 to FSH 1909.15, 26.1b, dated January 12, 1990.

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217. A Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9. "Content of Notice of Appeal" and must be filed with Regional Forester, 517 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102-0084, and simultaneously sent to the Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310 within 45 days from the date of publication of the legal notice of decision in the Alamogordo Daily News. This project will not be implemented sooner than seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice of decision. I anticipate that the notice will appear in the paper on October 18 or 19, 1990.

For further information, contact Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310, (505) 437-6030.



Lee Poague
Forest Supervisor

9-25-90
Date